Redhill Philatelic Society

∞ 75th Anniversary Year ∞

Newsletter December 2012

Volume 15 No.5

Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday Evenings:

1st January 2013
Secretary's Evening

15th January
Displays –
Mr P Ring & Mr G Newey

5th February
Chairman's Evening

19th February -
+++ Society Auction +++

5th March
Churchill – Mr N Evans

19th March
++ Society Competitions ++

Friday Afternoons:

25th January 2013
GB Part 2 – Mr E Walker

22nd February
Thematics - All Members

29th March – Display by "The 2 Alans"

Editorial:

Happy Christmas!

To all members of the

Redhill Philatelic Society and their families.

Appropriately for the season the newsletter has a distinctly Cinderella theme, with pieces on 1971 strike mail, a Christmas Scout post being operated in the Redhill/Reigate area and a short piece on a pair of labels promoting the Ffestiniog railway.

It is hard to believe 2012 is almost over, and it seems a common cry these days to say "I don't know where the time has gone". If you are intending on putting an entry into the Society competitions don't be caught out and plan time to ensure your entry is written up and ready for display.

Please do not forget the first meeting of 2013 is on 1st January! It is looking as though it will be another great evening with several members booked to support our Secretary's theme of "Around the Borough"

Robert Hurst
3 Bletchingley Road, Merstham
RH1 3HT

Up Coming Events:

30 December 2012 **Tolworth Postcard & Ephemera Fair** (Sunday: 10:00 –16:00)
Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way, Tolworth KT6 7LQ

25 – 26 January 2013 **Kempton – Twickenham Postcard Fair** (Friday: 10:00-17:00 & Saturday: 10:00-15:00)
Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames TW16 5AQ

20 – 23 February 2013 **Spring Stampex** *(including a specialist exhibition of Revenue and Cinderella material)*
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH
(Nearest Tube: The Angel on the Northern Line)
On 21 March Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps marking the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austin's novel: Pride & Prejudice

Auction Final Reminder:

Any items for inclusion in the Society Auction on 19th February 2013 should be handed to Paul Munro by the evening of Tuesday 15rd January (the second Society meeting of 2013).

Reports of Society Meetings:

4 September 2012 – Six Sheets – All Members

As has become customary "six sheets of interest" competition kick-off the first meeting of the 2012/13 Season. Though not all threw their hat into the competitive ring, eighteen members brought along material to display:

1	Mr Patrick Phillips	Grandmother's memorabilia
2	*	New Zealand Prestige Books (Non-competitive entry)
3	Mr Richard Cooper	King Edward VII GB Overprints
4	Mr Bert Latham	Bletchingley
5	Mr David Wiskin	Malta Postage Dues
6	Mr David Hall	Falkland Islands Official Mail
7	Mr Alan Eggleton	Flowers on Stamps
8	Mr Alan Denman	Gold Coast – King George VI
9	Mr Edward Walker	GB King George VI
10	Mr Brian Martin	Belgium
11	Mr Roger Pomfret	Nigerian stamps (pre-independence)
12	Miss Jay Walmsley	Sweden
13	Mr Geoff Richardson	Germany 1936 Olympic Stamp booklets
14	Mr Robert Hurst	GB 1½p Machin definitive
15	Mr Brain Cooper	Aeroplanes (Flying Boats)
16	Mrs Christine Cooper	Japan (Non-competitive entry)
17	Mr Tony Sanson	France
18	Mr Les Jobbins	Netherland Post Office Box Rental Payment Cards

The winning entry was decided by popular vote to be Mr David Wiskin's entry showing Malta's 1925 postage Due issue including the variety: missing 2 of ½ on the 2½d value with both genuine and forged examples displayed.

Our Chairman, Mr Tony Sanson, thanked those who saw the season off to such an excellent start by bringing along such a wide range of quality entries. *(* Unfortunately your editor does not have a note of the name of the member who showed the New Zealand issues. If he would make himself know I will be pleased to acknowledge his contribution to the evening).*

18 September - The 1971 Great Britain Postal Strike Mails - Mr John Armstone

Many members will know Mr Armstone as a dealer in Stamps and Postal History. John Armstone has for several years attended the Society's Dealer's evening bringing a wide range of stock for sale. However what many members may have been unaware of was John's interest in the private mail operations authorised to operate during the industrial dispute between the Post Office and members on the Communication Workers Union that took place between 20 January and 8 March 1971.

In late October 1970 the union submitted a claim for a wage increase for their workers of £3-00 per week or 15% which ever was greater. By 14 January 1971 the Post Office had only offered an 8% increase, which was rejected by the workers who walked out on 20 January. In the course of the strike some Post Offices opened for a few hours each week to allow pensions and other benefits to be paid, and the strikers organised some limited postal arrangements to handle letters from certain organisations such as hospitals. To allow other organisations to arrange the movement of mail the government suspended the Post Office monopoly on letter post.

John's explained that at the time of the strike he was living and working in London and was often handed leaflets at the railway station promoting private letter services. Taking up the challenge he started sending letters to himself at his rented accommodation. The material displayed was a result of those attempts to chronicle the services in London and in the years since the strike, collecting material from across the country. The examples shown ranged from the speculative issues designed to purely appeal to collectors to items for filling genuine postal needs. The majority of the services were restricted to a single geographic area, but it was illuminating to discover that many companies forged links with neighbouring mail carriers to allow letters to be delivered outside the immediate area of posting.

In the course of the strike decimal currency was introduced (on 15 February 1971) which resulted in many instances with stamps being over-printed or reprinted with new denominations.

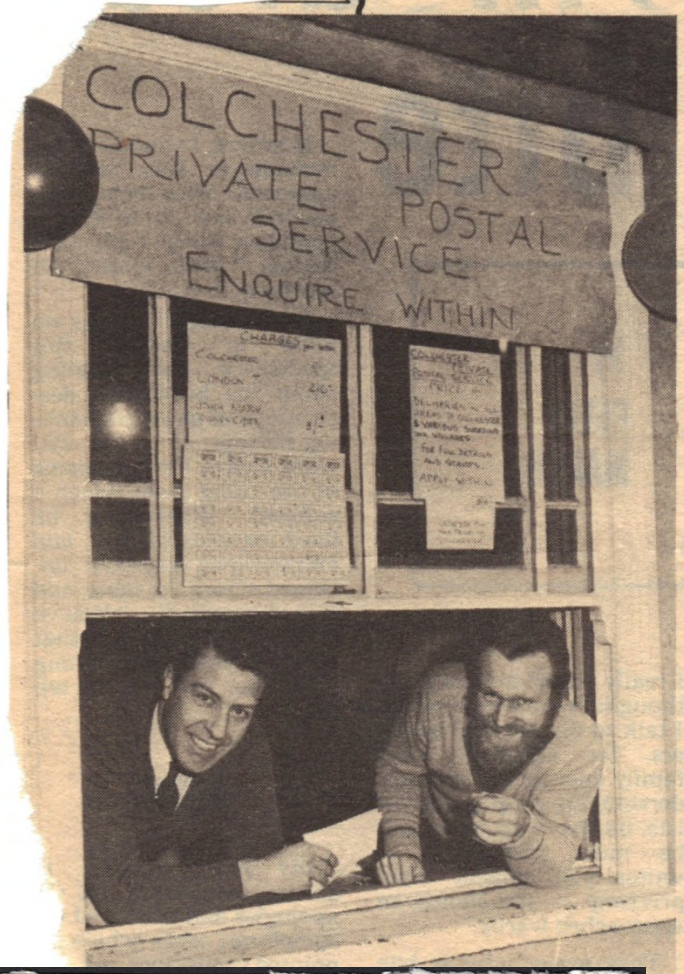
By early March Union funds were becoming depleted and the post Office had suffered an estimated loss of £25 million in revenue. An agreement was reached between the two sides, deliveries resumed on 8 March and the Post Office monopoly was restored.

The vote of thanks was given by our Chairman Mr Tony Sanson

While it was not possible to scan any of John' s fascinating display, to give a flavour of the type of material shown a copy appears below of an item from your editors collection, of a cover posted using a service set up in Colchester, Essex.. Alongside it is a cutting from an Essex newspaper giving details of *Colchester Post*, one of the many mail services which briefly flourished during the strike.

The cover shown below shows the two shilling rate for mail posted in Colchester for addresses in London (as set out in the newspaper clipping right). The stamps have been cancelled by a "Received" mark dated 30 January 1971 and a circular "Chelsea" postmark dated 1.2.1971.

PIRATE POST TO DOWN UNDER



TEN days ago Colchester was in a postal dilemma — how was our post going to get delivered? Now "postal pirates" in Priory Street have not only started a delivery around Colchester, but Mr Edward James, pictured left, and Mr Michael Davies, right, are ready to send their first letter to an Australian doctor in Sydney.

This letter is in the mail box of 54a Priory Street where Mr James of Lock Cottage, Dedham, and Mr Davies, Pilcox Hall, Tendring have set up headquarters for the Colchester Post.

They are delivering within an area of three miles from Colchester and to London.

A one shilling stamp, seen below, is issued with each letter delivered locally — the charge for London is 2s, and 4s for the Continent.

Both men are self employed and they felt that this was a marvellous opportunity to provide a service for the public.

By way of background it should be remembered that when postal services resumed after the strike inland first class mail was set at 3p (equivalent to 7.2d) compared with 5d prior to the strike.

17th Reigate Scout Group – Christmas Post 2012

The 17th Reigate Scouts based at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Ladbroke Road, Redhill has announced that it will be running a Christmas Card Delivery Service in the RH1 and RH2 postcode areas. Stamps have been put on sale (FIG 1) at the repositories of St Joseph's, St Teresa's, (Weldon Way, Merstham) and the Holy Family (Yorke Road, Reigate) Churches. Post boxes for the service are located at the back of each of the churches named.

Fig. 1

The stamps cost 25p each and have been printed in sheets of 65 (13 rows of 5 stamps) on self-adhesive labels which have a slim gutter between stamps in each column. However there is no gutter between rows. The overall sheet size is A4, and there are no marginal markings.

Deliveries are set to be made over the weekends of 16th and 23rd December by the Scouts (last posting date for the service is given as 19th December 2012).

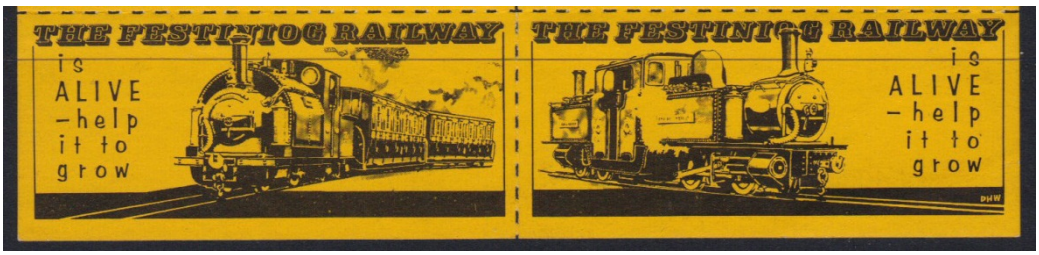
All proceeds from the sale of stamps will go toward the building of a new Scout Hall for the 17th Reigate Group.

It is hoped to print details of any cancels employed, give numbers of stamps sold and quantities of mail carried in a future edition of the newsletter.

The Ffestiniog Railway Cinderella Labels

The Ffestiniog Railway is one of the premier preserved railways in the United Kingdom. Preservation of the line started in 1954 and today services run from Porthmadog over 13 miles to Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales

From time to time the company that operates the line issues Railway Letter Stamps as a fund raiser. The stamps apart from being collectable in their own right are valid for the payment of the carriage of letters and postcards on the Railway prior to their being posted at the destination station on the line, for delivery by the Royal Mail. However Cinderella labels have also been produced by supporters to promote the railway, and the work it does.



Shown here is a pair of such labels, printed in sheets of ten (five of each design), with roulette perforations to allow easy separation of the "stamps". The label on the right shows one of the George England manufactured 040SST engines pulling two passenger coaches. The line operates a number of the engines, which were built in the 1860's.

The label on the left depicts an engine of a design that the Ffestiniog pioneered: the double Fairlie. It was the world's first locomotive with swivelling power bogies, which provided greater power and allowed much heavier trains to be handled without increasing manpower costs. As a reward for publicising his design, Robert Fairlie gave the Ffestiniog Railway the free use of his patent.

Unfortunately neither label states the individual engine depicted, however the pleasing black on yellow design certainly achieves its objective as an eye catching promotion of the Ffestiniog Railway.